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A/AC.240/1995/WG/5
18 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS
Drafting Group
Sixteenth meeting
25 May 1995

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Amendments to the draft Declaration for the Fiftieth Anniversary submitted by the Preparatory Committee (A/AC.240/1995/WG/1)

A. Amendments proposed by Canada

Paragraph 16, subparagraph 1

Replace the words

(a) "the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child" by the following text from part I, paragraph 1, of the Vienna Declaration:

"the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights, and international law. The universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question"

Replace the words

(b) "the education of and the provision of other basic rights to all women" by the words "the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls"

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B. Amendments proposed by the European Union

1. Paragraph 13

Replace the paragraph by the following:

The United Nations has played an important role in the provision of, often life-saving, assistance to women, men and children around the world. Considerable efforts have been undertaken by developed as well as developing countries to implement the Charter's pledge that all members of the United Nations take joint and separate actions in cooperation with the Organization for the achievement of higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development. However, new and strengthened efforts are necessary if we want to live up to this pledge.

2. Paragraph 14

Replace the paragraph by the following:

While the global wealth of nations has multiplied sevenfold in the past 50 years and international trade has grown even more dramatically, and life expectancy, literacy, primary education and access to basic health care have increased in many countries, the gap between rich and poor has also widened, and far too many people have been stricken by poverty, unemployment and social disintegration which makes them increasingly vulnerable to stress and deprivation. More than one billion people in the world live in abject poverty, most of whom go hungry every day.

3. Paragraph 15

Replace the paragraph by the following:

In order to meet common development challenges, the United Nations has convened in recent years a number of global conferences. As a result, a consensus has emerged on a new integrated and multidimensional concept of people-centred sustainable development. At the core of such a concept is the recognition of the human person as the central subject of development.

4. Paragraph 16

Replace the paragraph by the following:

Building upon the outcome of recent United Nations conferences and agreements, the Agenda for Development offers an historic opportunity to launch a new commitment to development in each of our countries and a new era of international cooperation between Governments and peoples based on a spirit of partnership and mutual interest that puts the needs, rights and aspirations of people at the centre of our decisions and joint actions. In order better to promote people-centred sustainable development, an action-oriented Agenda should:

- Reaffirm that democracy and the promotion and protection of all human rights, including the right to development, are indispensable foundations for development and that effective development policies require the participation of all sectors of society

- Promote an open framework for trade, investment and the transfer of technology, as well as enhanced cooperation in the areas of debt and finance for development, as critical conditions for sustained economic growth. In this context, particular attention should be given to national and international action to enhance the benefits of the process of globalization for all countries and to avoid the marginalization from the world economy of the least developed countries, in particular in Africa

- Promote social development through decisive national and international action aiming at the eradication of poverty, the promotion of full employment and social integration. The empowerment of women should be recognized as being central to all efforts to achieve development

- Recognize that environmental sustainability constitutes an integral part of the development process and promote actions to reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, as well as appropriate policies, including population-related policies, to meet the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

- Improve the effectiveness of the United Nations system for development, especially in the field, in particular in order to ensure the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the outcome of the major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields

C. Amendments proposed by Russian Federation

1. Paragraph 10

Replace the paragraph by the following:

We recognize that all human rights derive from the dignity and worth inherent in the human person and that the human person is the central subject of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and consequently should be the principal beneficiary and should participate actively in the realization of these rights and freedoms. In this connection we reaffirm:

- that the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms must be considered as a priority objective of the United Nations in accordance with its purposes and principles

- that the promotion and protection of all human rights is a legitimate concern of the international community in the framework of these purposes and principles

- that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated

- that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis

- that it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms

2. Paragraph 11

Replace the paragraph by the following:

The development of international law by the United Nations has played a crucial role in building the structure of modern international relations. This work must be pursued with renewed determination, given the developments under way in various fields of international relations.

3. Paragraph 12

Replace the paragraph by the following:

We express our determination to:

- promote acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law

- encourage universal ratification of existing multilateral treaties and respect the obligations arising from these treaties

- promote means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice

- promote the further codification and progressive development of international law to ensure that the Charter's promises of fundamental rights and social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom can be kept

- encourage the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law

D. Amendment proposed by Sweden

Paragraph 16

Insert the following new subparagraph after the third subparagraph:

- a fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product for overall official development assistance and to investigate new and innovative methods for raising resources

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